

HOOSIER WOMEN AT WORK

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Evaline Holliday and the Work of Community Service

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Evaline MacFarlane Rieman Holliday (1853-1924) was an influential civic, social, and philanthropic leader in Indianapolis. This paper examines her legacy as a volunteer – therefore unpaid – woman at work. Evaline Holliday served as a trustee of the Flower Mission, Orphan Asylum, Christamore House, Church Women United, and numerous other charities. Her major work was as president of the Indianapolis Free Kindergarten (IFK) for twenty-one years, by far the longest tenure as president in the IFK's history. As a volunteer she founded nonprofit organizations, raised funds, planned galas, and managed large cadres of volunteers and employees.

What do most people know about Evaline Holliday? Some may have heard of John Hampden Holliday (1846-1921), founder of the *Indianapolis News*. Many residents of Indianapolis today have heard of Holliday Park, but may not know for whom it is named or why "Holliday" is spelled with two L's. In 1916 the Hollidays together founded the Society of Indiana Pioneers, an enduring organization that continues to honor the memory and work of early Indiana citizens – yet the society recognizes John Holliday as the founder and awards its prize in his name. Evaline's community service remains largely unknown, except to her family members.

This paper contributes to Hoosier Women at Work by exploring the life and contributions of an influential community volunteer, Evaline Holliday. It was published in the [*Indiana Magazine of History*](#) 112, no. 4 (December 2016): 338-368.

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